

# **SOUTH SOUND – SOUTH SOUND TRIBS CHINOOK**

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## **STOCK STATUS**

<b>1992 STATUS</b>	<b>2002 STATUS</b>
<b>Healthy</b>	<b>Not Rated</b>

The evaluation of the South Sound Tribs Chinook stock in the 1992 SASSI regarded all naturally spawning fish, including hatchery returns released or escaping above hatchery racks. These hatchery-origin adults, spawning in their basins of origin, were responsible for the large escapement numbers and the healthy rating for this stock in 1992.

In SaSI 2002, the fall Chinook spawning aggregations observed in south Puget Sound independent tributaries are not rated. The Co-managers support this action with the following rationale: (1) The independent tributaries in south Puget Sound are not typical Chinook habitat because of relatively small stream size and low flows during the late summer/early fall spawning season. (2) The current low escapements (outside of streams that support on-station Chinook production programs) are likely the result of past hatchery plants or straying from either current South Sound hatchery production or viable south Sound natural populations. (3) Fall Chinook likely were not historically self-sustaining in these habitats and have little chance of perpetuating themselves through natural production.

## **STOCK DEFINITION**

We do not regard fall Chinook spawning in generally small independent South Sound streams as being a distinct stock in the same sense that the term is used elsewhere in this inventory.

**SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION:** Most spawning takes place McAllister Creek, Deschutes River, Percival Creek and other independent tributaries such Woodland Creek, Mill Creek, Goldsborough Creek, Case Inlet streams, Carr Inlet streams, and East Kitsap streams.

**SPAWNING TIMING:** Spawning generally occurs from late September through October.

**GENETIC ANALYSIS:** No genetic analysis has been done on South Sound Tribs Chinook.

## **STOCK ORIGIN**

South Sound tributaries are streams that we consider probably did not possess sustainable populations of Chinook historically. Present-day Chinook returns are due to the large releases from a number of South Sound hatcheries. Although locally-returning Chinook are now used for broodstock at these hatcheries, their ancestry is largely Soos Creek Hatchery (Green River) Chinook.